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POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
No. 1437

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

Sofia GRAZHDANSKA OTBRANA in Bulgarian No 5, 1977 pp 4-7

[Article by Col Eng Dimitur Gospodinov: "Organized and Calm Action in Calamities"]

[Text] For centuries the effect of natural calamities has triggered catastrophic consequences. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and tremendous material and cultural values have been destroyed. Occasionally the population has become horrified and a panic has spread. In most cases man has remained powerless in the face of the elements, unable to counter-act them. Naturally, the more knowledge man acquired on the nature and consequences of calamities, the less dependent he became on them and the more limited were the material damages.

In most cases natural calamities occur suddenly as a result of which they trigger critical situations, disturb the normal rhythm of life and work, and result in increased losses of people and greater destruction of material values. Natural calamities include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, fires, huge landslides, snow storms and blizzards, and hurricanes. In the case of our country more frequent are floods, snow storms, and blizzards, while forest fires and earthquakes are less frequent. The reasons for such natural calamities are well known. In some cases they could be prevented or considerably reduced if preventive measures are taken. In terms of its nature and consequences, one of the natural calamities comes quite close to some of the striking characteristics of nuclear weapons. It would be erroneous to identify a natural calamity with a model of a nuclear center of destruction, even though it has similar elements and characteristics which should be attentively studied and assessed in order to draw accurate and scientific conclusions on practical activities related to the training and staffing of formations in peacetime, and the conduct of rescue and emergency breakdown repair operations in wartime conditions.

Some Conclusions from the 4 March Earthquake

The earthquake was felt throughout the country. However, the biggest destructions occurred in the areas of Svishtov, Nikopol, and Ruse. Severe damage was caused to Ruse and Razgrad okrugs. Housing, industrial, public, and agricultural premises, technical facilities of individual systems, and other projects were destroyed. As a result of the earthquake and the total destruction of two house buildings alone 108 people died while 31 people were rescued from the wreckage in Svishtov. Tremendous material damages were caused. This event triggered a variety of reactions and caused confusion among the population. It was the topic of excited debates on the consequences, the solidity of building structures, the rescue methods used, and so on. That is why we believe it proper to discuss in greater detail this particular event.

The preliminary study indicated different reactions in the behavior of the various building structures, and technical and other systems. This calls for a profound assessment of the information and data of expert evaluations and studies of the way the structures and systems reacted.

In Svishtov two residential buildings and one administrative building were wrecked totally. They were monolithic structures built of concrete slabs and bricks with a reinforced concrete frame, located on single foundations. The ground level of the housing block contained stores while that of the community house of the Svilozha Chemical Combine and of the Rudmetal administrative building contained cafeterias, both with glass windows. With the break of the reinforced concrete pillars the concrete slabs fell one over the other without the presumed shifting on the side. The covering slab alone drifted somewhat farther (6-10 meters) from the bulk, taking with it very little masonry and other elements. After the crumbling of the 10-story high housing block the height of the wreckage did not exceed 5 to 6 meters. The outside walls of the premises were buried and making an opening to the cellars was an exceptionally difficult task.

The three totally destroyed buildings presented an almost identical picture: initially it seemed that the crumbled structures were in a state of total disorder. Essentially, however, it was as though the slabs had piled one over the other with gaps of 30 to 70-80 cm between them. Crumbling, the balconies of the community house had kept their order and position. However, they showed the same stratification as the floors. In the course of the clearing no passages or big hollow areas where people could have found shelter were found. Most of the slabs above the cellars had broken down and masonry and various types of waste had fallen in the cellars. The slabs, pillars, and staircases had been preserved in big blocks while the armature had remained entire. Subsequently this was a great hindrance to the clearing.

Considerable damage was caused to the industrial enterprises. Characteristically, the roofing and floor slabs of these enterprises had fallen through in areas where the heaviest industrial equipment had been placed

in the thermoelectric power plant and the cellulose plant of the Svilozha Chemical Combine; a sinking of the entire ground floor by 1-1.5 meters, together with the technological equipment, had taken place in one of the shops of the cellulose plant without any visible damage to the external walls. Nearly all pipelines had remained with the exception of those hit by falling objects.

Some of the port equipment in Svishtov and Ruse were damaged by the action of the seismic wave. There were considerable cracks 20 to 25 meters inside the key wall. Some cranes left their tracks, and the tracks sunk and lost their shape.

Severe damages were caused to some installations and buildings of the communications and power systems. In some cases the power supply to communications systems was interrupted. More widespread destruction was caused among the transformer booths of the power system.

Considerable damage was suffered by private houses in Pleven, V. Turnovo, Ruse, and Razgrad okrugs, and some other okrugs in northeastern Bulgaria. Severe destruction occurred in Maslarevo Village in V. Turnovo Okrug, Ekzarkh Yosifovo Village and Dve Mogili in Ruse Okrug, and elsewhere. The buildings which were mostly affected had smooth brick or adobe masonry, without pillars or frames. It is noteworthy that most of them were relatively new buildings while neighboring older frame buildings did not suffer or suffered light damages.

Following the description of the consequences of the earthquake the following natural question arises:

What Were the Reasons for the Destruction of Some Structures Only?

It is still difficult to provide a complete and a scientifically substantiated answer to this question, for there has been insufficient time to provide a profound study. The experts have not issued their opinion, for the results of the assessments have not been processed and summed up. Nevertheless, why is it that out of two neighboring blocks with entirely identical architecture and structure one would crumble while the other one would be merely damaged? Why is it that new brick buildings break down while neighboring old frame houses remain untouched?

In the case of the totally destroyed buildings, it is quite possible that they crumbled for the following reasons: the sandy clay under some of the columns was washed away as a result of which the entire load was transmitted to the remaining columns; the house building was built on a ground floor with columns without supporting walls which would have assumed part of the load as well; and last but not least the quality of the construction work.

As we pointed out, for the time being these are merely assumptions and results of direct impressions of the consequences, unofficially shared by specialists from different agencies. Subsequently the conclusions will be offered by science and by the designers.

The fact that in the okrugs we mentioned brick and adobe buildings without reinforced concrete or wooden frames suffered most heavily indicates that in reworking construction regulations stricter requirements must be formulated regarding the support capability of the structures. The behavior of the other construction methods extensively used in our country should be studied as well--package slabs, large-scale casings, panel construction, and others.

Development of Rescue Work in Svishtov

The first rescuers rushed spontaneously immediately following the crumbling of the buildings. These were passersby, people close to the victims, and troops and commanders from the neighboring unit. They simply heard shouts for help, and the moaning of the victims, and hastened to their aid. They crawled through narrow openings, entered the darkness in the direction of the moaning people and children, and pulled them out of the wreckage. They were workers, students, young people from the Sviloza Chemical Combine, and troops and young officers. Many of them, risking their own lives, worked continuously for 18 hours until the last person was taken out.

Army units from the Svishtov and some neighboring garrisons and some sub-units of the Main Administration of Construction Troops went to the rescue immediately. Initially the entire personnel worked in one shift. However, experience proved this to be inexpedient, for they would become exhausted and the work area was quite narrow and the people began to be in each other's way.

In the first days the participation of the military units was decisive, for they were the only organized combat force, charged with a great deal of energy and high patriotism. A large percentage of the local population had left the city limits and settled in the suburban cottages and nearby villages, while others were at work in enterprises and establishments.

The following stage began with the appointment of a governmental commission headed by Comrade Sava Dulbokov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of supply and state reserves. The commission moved immediately to the area of the catastrophe and was essentially in charge of all coordination activities. An operative bureau was set up in Svishtov in charge of organizing and coordinating all activities related to rescuing the victims and the restoration work. The entire party, state, and economic aktiv of Veliko Turnovo Okrug was energized. The okrug civil defense system was activated and some of its units joined the work immediately--the personnel of the okrug and city civil defense staffs and troops from the emergency rescue detachment in Svishtov.

The very next day after the earthquake, on instructions issued by the governmental commission and the okrug management, heavy mechanization facilities began to arrive in Svishtov. These were mechanized subunits of emergency rescue detachments. Soon each rescue area had 4 to 5 motor cranes with a 16-, 36-, and 80-ton capacity, 2-3 compressed air stations, 3 to 4 fadroma loading machines, 4 electric armature cutting machines or welding machines, and up to 30 dump trucks.

To help the mechanizers the civil defense chief in Svishtov assigned to each shift of the emergency rescue detachment 30 to 40 troops from the formations, experienced builders and mechanizers, who broke down the concrete slabs and columns, hung them to the hook of the crane, and cut the armature. Each site had its technical manager who was a member of the command personnel of the okrug's emergency-rescue service.

On the suggestion of the okrug civil defense staff an auxiliary operations group was assigned to each crane and heavy machine. Without heavy mechanization facilities and high-level organization of the work rescue operations and clearing could not be carried out quickly. Work was done on a round-the-clock basis, in four shifts, six hours per shift. The searchlights mounted on the various sites turned night into day and the thunder of the machines was almost incessant. An efficient organization was developed based, above all, on the discipline of the army units, and the command and organizing qualities of the civil defence officers and the troop subunits. All troops and commanders of the armed forces and the civil defense system, party and state leaders, workers and employees, mechanizers, men and women, higher and secondary medical personnel participating in the rescue operations displayed real heroism and civic valor in carrying out their rescue work. Some mechanizers were like grain operator Pavlina Eftimova, a gentle frail woman who worked on her crane 18 to 20 hours a day. There were many such people.

Let us emphasize that in the very first hours and days following the calamity the army and civil defense assumed the main burden. They were the main organized force helping the victims. By virtue of their discipline, proper organization of the work, patriotism, and high moral and political qualities, the troops and commanders of the Bulgarian People's Army and the formations subsequently remained the decisive force conducting the rescue operations, the urgent emergency rescue operations, and the clearing of the wreckage.

The experience of the rescue and emergency repair works in a modern city where new reinforced concrete structures predominate, proved categorically that rescue and emergency damage repair work under such circumstances is impossible without the availability of heavy construction mechanization equipment.

Some problems related to the command-organizational work of the command personnel of the civil defense system became apparent, mainly within the "okrug-city-site" chain. Such unresolved problems are related to the lack

of skill of some formation commanders and staffs in organizing timely reconnaissance to determine the circumstances in the city, assess such circumstances, process the information, and issue short, clear, and categorical orders. An important link determining successful work is the organization of interaction among the formations participating in rescue operations, insuring communications channels for controlling civil defense forces, and others.

No less complex and important is the task of engaging in rescue operations in areas subjected to snow storms and along snow-covered routes. Particularly useful in such cases are track bulldozers S-80 and S-100, heavy BAT bulldozers, and graders. Such machines insure high clearing productivity and help to rapidly normalize traffic and assist casualties promptly. In such cases the road-clearing machinery should be accompanied by suitable well-heated transportation vehicles containing the necessary minimum of facilities for providing first aid to frost victims and casualties and their transportation to the closest settlements or hospitals. Usually engineering machines move at small distances from each other, thus insuring the overall clearing of the roadway. Mechanization plays an exceptional role in urgent power system repairs as well. Here requirements are reduced mainly to insuring the availability of all terrain vehicles, and automotive cranes with high capacity and long arm sweep.

The struggle with forest fires has its own characteristics and difficulties. Here high-capacity water trucks, trench-digging plows, and fast trench-digging machines for clearing fire prevention strips, and various fire-fighting machinery and motor pumps assume great importance. In such cases the engineering equipment is used for extinguishing the fires with a water jet, with clearing fire prevention strips, pouring dirt on the fire, and so on.

Natural calamities and, particularly, the last earthquake revealed the great role of the mental resistance of the population.

This is a powerful shield against panic and disorder, cowardice and desertion. An ideologically trained population displays greater mental firmness. Without displaying obvious shocks triggered by the difficult circumstances it tends to display courage, firmness, and heroism, coolness, self-control, and discipline.

The struggle for the elimination of the consequences of the earthquake in Svishtov leads us to draw important conclusions on the nature of rescue operations, the structure and staffing of formations, the ideological training and mental firmness of the population, and the role of the civil defense in this area. However, this does not mean that the civil defense authorities should pay less attention to readiness to engage in rescue and emergency damage repair operations in the case of other natural catastrophes, as we have mentioned, which sometimes cause casualties and substantial material and cultural losses in our country.

Important tasks face the economic organs and organizations, ministries, and departments concerning the stability of the projects they build, as well as the organs of the Ministry of Construction and Architecture concerning the firmness and solidity of the structures. Intensive creative work lies ahead in the study and summation of the consequences of natural calamities and, above all, of the last earthquake.

5003

CSO: 2200

QUICK CIVIL DEFENSE RESPONSE TO VIDIN EARTHQUAKE

Sofia GRAZHDANSKA OTBRANA in Bulgarian No 5, 1977 pp 9-10

[Article by Angel Tsvetkov: "Following the Main Direction; the Vidin Civil Defense Staff Responded Organizedly to the Shock"]

[Text] It so happened that that Friday evening not only the night shifts and the guards were on duty but also the okrug civil defense management was on a war footing. This was a leadership which had frequently surmounted floods and other natural catastrophes. This time, however, the danger did not come from the Danube River, which has almost always been gentle and generous and, sometimes, rough and merciless. This time the powerful river was sympathetic to the city's trouble.

The time that the electric clocks in the building of the okrug people's council were showing was 9:24 pm and the people of Vidin were as yet unaware that they would remember the following minute their entire lives. Suddenly invisible underground forces subjected the city to a terrible trial. An unparalleled shock rocked the buildings. Chimneys and front walls, plaster, and ceilings began to break down. Television sets and dressers were jumping. It was as though this minute encompassed an eternity in which everything broke down under the pressure of an unseen element. The shocks returned again and again and the people lost track of time and of the true size of the danger.

In the guard room of the okrug staff, on the 16th floor of the building, the floor was rocking like the deck of a ship shaken by a raging hurricane. The officers and employees present could hardly stand on their feet. Around them objects and things kept falling along with bits of plaster from the ceiling. At such times moments of despair intermix with moments of hope and the self-preservation instinct blends with the feeling of duty.

Everything lasted less than 1 minute but it would seem to the people that they had gone through all the horrors of hell. The feeling of having touched something terrible and seen death pass by takes a person out of his usual condition. However, when such a person is an employee within the civil defense system duty orders him to think of the lives of others and to organize rescue and emergency damage repair work, since his vocation is to fight with far more terrible catastrophes.

The event is merely the beginning and the end of the catastrophe is unknown, as the staff has not received as yet information on the extent of the damages. Communications with the capital have been interrupted. What then? Many of the city's residents, afraid, loaded their wives and children in their cars and, without thinking of anything else, took off. No one could find out the origin and way of dissemination of the rumor that even stronger shocks would follow, and that many people had been killed and wounded. That is why the first concern of the okrug staff was to gain information, introduce organization and discipline, and prevent panic.

On behalf and on the instructions of the okrug leadership officer Elenkov immediately mobilized the necessary transportation facilities and sent specialists and troops from the formations to the dikes to check their condition and take the necessary measures. Trucks and dump trucks were waiting for the order to load and throw panels and rocks to block any eventual breach. In the very first minutes the "Order and Security" teams undertook the fulfillment of their assignments. The staff was collecting information and, without any loss of time, brought all staffs and formations to a state of total battle readiness. Chiefs of services were issued assignments and undertook their implementation rapidly. Fortunately, not one of the leaders yielded to the self-preservation instinct. Everyone undertook to carry out his activities with a feeling of responsibility.

The specialists assigned to check the dikes reported that no slides had occurred and that the water level had not risen. Yet, there was a danger that the dislocated earth structures may have weakened and there was no way to determine sudden changes which could occur in the flow of the powerful river shaken up by the earthquake. Officer Elenkov organized permanent guard duty along the dikes and instructed the respective formations to be ready for action in the threatened areas. Commanders, troops, machinery and equipment were ready to carry out their assignments.

Assisted by his staff, officer Elenkov promptly submitted to the first secretary of the okrug BCP committee and the okrug civil defense chief considerations on future actions and, on their behalf, issued the necessary orders. Officers Ivanov, Aleksiev, Tsankov, and Petkov collected and processed information, and drafted reports and instructions. Amazing resourcefulness and efficiency were displayed the very first minutes after the shock was felt on the 16th floor.

In the first hour following the shock the damage repair detachments and crews began operations. The cities of the okrug center, like the other affected settlements, had to be cleared immediately from the fallen chimneys, walls, roofs, and telephone and electric poles. The electric power had been interrupted yet it had to be supplied immediately to the enterprises and all consumers without interruptions. Within that time reports came in one after another; the civil defense chief in Kula reported that a fire had broken out at the rubber goods enterprise; the chief of staff at the Zlaten Rog Obshtina telephoned and reported the damage caused to the Koshava

Mine--the transformer station and a big industrial building had fallen down; walls and ceilings were cracked at the telephones plant in Belogradchik; a food warehouse had been seriously damaged in Novo Selo; public and private buildings had been damaged in Pokrayna and Kosovo villages; people and buildings had been affected at the Vedernik DIP [State Industrial Enterprise]...

Like a stormy river the information flow kept running. Everything had to be sifted and evaluated and fast decisions had to be made.

"The main thing," reported officer Elenkov to Lyudmil Pendelashki, okrug civil defense chief, "is to prevent any breach in the dikes along the Danube, stop the panic, restore telephone-telegraph and power cables, and help the casualties..."

The morning came bright and clear. The people returned to their homes. Only the staffs and some of the formations remained on a war footing. A combat watch was instituted. The circumstances were further clarified, decisions were made, orders were given. Measures were taken to eliminate the consequences and resume rapidly the labor rhythm at okrug enterprises and settlements.

Now, when the great catastrophe, this bad joke played by nature, has gone away, and when the last casualties are leaving the hospitals and only the most severe damages caused to buildings remain, summations, assessments, and conclusions are being made. The catastrophe was a test for staffs and formations and for every chief, commander, and fighter as far as their combat readiness and combat capability were concerned. Bitter experience proved that organized resistance to the elements does not allow man to be a toy in the hands of natural catastrophes and that in such critical situations civil defense can protect him.

Certain achievements of staffs and formations are clear. Unquestionably, however, we also find some unresolved or partially unresolved problems which are yet to be worked upon. This is something worth thinking about. High conscientiousness, organization, and discipline are developed in the course of annual civil defense training. They are a prerequisite for a successful struggle against panic and for the timely guidance of the efforts of staffs and formations along the main direction.

5003

CSO: 2200

BULGARIA

CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS TO DEAL WITH FLOODS

Sofia GRAZHDANSKA OTBRANA in Bulgarian No 5, 1977 pp 12-13

[Article by Lt Col Kosta Gandzhov: "Confidently Against the Water Element"]

[Text] One of the main tasks of civil defense in peacetime is the struggle against natural calamities. Its success depends, above all, on the thorough preliminary training of both the leading organs and the formations themselves. Based on the experience of the USSR and the members of the socialist camp extraordinary commissions have been set up by the okrug, city, and rural municipalities and the industrial enterprises. Their task is to forecast the possible damage which an expected natural calamity may cause, establish means for its prevention, organize rescue operations and information facilities, supply the victims with housing and objects of prime necessity, and so on.

On the basis of acquired experience, the commissions must study the places threatened by floods and earmark measures to prevent flood consequences.

Blagoevgrad's geographic location is such that the Bistritsa and Struma rivers run through it. They are a certain threat to some of the population and the enterprises. This threat arises after lengthy precipitation or intensive thawing of the snows.

After studying past experiences, the city civil defense staff and the commission set up by the city obshtina people's council reached the conclusion that the following may be threatened by floods: the House-Building Combine, the area up to the sports stadium, and the city's 1st, 2d, and 12th districts. Analyzing our conclusions, Gulub Georgiev, chairman of the city's obshtina people's council executive committee, suggested that these areas be assigned to respective organizations in charge of their continual observation and of suggesting measures to improve their safety during floods. The threatened areas were assigned to Public Works, the Svezhest Okrug consumers' cooperative, the okrug water and sewage service, and others.

The decision was made at a joint meeting of the extraordinary commission and the city staff that in the case of heavy and lengthy precipitation the endangered enterprises should immediately organize a watch without awaiting additional instructions and report periodically changes in the circumstances to the city civil defense staff (the official on duty at the GONS [City Obshinta People's Council]).

In order that prompt assistance may be provided, it was decided that special forces and facilities will be assigned to the city civil defense staff in times of flood: the rayon fire-fighting service with four trucks, five mechanized fire-fighting squads, military units from the garrison, five site emergency rescue detachments, three city medical units, the Low Construction crew, and the electrical repairs team. In the case of danger the city staff would raise them to a state of readiness and, through its operative group, assign them specific tasks.

The notifying and rallying of such heterogeneous formations, scattered throughout the city, are based on a plan and a chart at the disposal of the official on duty at the GONS. The principal means of notification are the telephone, the radio relay center, and the use of messengers.

On the basis of such an organization the official on duty at the GONS can summon rapidly the commission members, the operative group, and the sector officials. The formations are rallied by the officials in charge and the chiefs of staff of the individual projects. The dispatchers on duty who also have a chart and plan for summoning the formations send the messengers promptly and the troops are required to gather in the area established by the extraordinary commission where they are given specific assignments for rescue operations in the flooded areas.

In 1976 on three occasions our city was threatened by floods. As a result of the well-organized preliminary preparations and the fast actions of the extraordinary commission the population in the endangered areas was notified on time and taken to safe places. There was no loss of life and the material damages were insignificant.

The June flood was particularly dangerous. As a consequence of the heavy rain which poured for several days the level of the Bistritsa River rose nearly 3 meters. The real threat existed that the water might flood the banks and destroy the bridges. The Low Construction team was activated to prevent this. It cleared the accumulations of floating logs and roots.

The city sewers were filled and in many parts of the city polluted water flooded the streets and poured into cellars. This was the target of the regional fire-fighting service and the mechanized fire-fighting squads. For 6 hours water from cellars and ground floors was steadily pumped out with the help of motor pumps.

The Water and Sewage crew was assigned the clearing of drain pipes. It channeled some of the effluence directly into the Bistritsa River and into Sapundzhi Dere.

As a result of the fast operations of the commission, the operative group, and the formations, the efforts to prevent the threat of floods were organized and conducted on a normal basis. Engineer Borislav Lefterov, deputy chairman of the GONS executive committee, the chief of staff of the city's civil defense, enterprises directors, and heads of establishments actively participated in these efforts.

After the hard hours of struggle against the water element, the commission and the city civil defense staff assessed the positive aspects of their own and the formations' activities. They took into consideration that a number of shortcomings were allowed as a result of which the plans were revised and expanded. Today the commission, the city staff, and the formations are ready to face any type of natural calamity with greater confidence.

5003

CSO: 2200

EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH IMPOSES NEW TASKS ON CIVIL DEFENSE

Sofia GRAZHDANSKA OTBRANA in Bulgarian No 5, 1977 pp 13-14

[Article by reserve Col Eng Vesel Dimchev: "Director of Public Mood and Behavior"]

[Text] The complex and comprehensive nature of the country's civil defense preparations, stemming from the requirements of a modern war and the participation of the population in the elimination of the consequences of natural calamities and major production breakdowns assign exceptionally important tasks concerning the moral-political and psychological preparedness of the working people. The need for such activities was irrefutably proved in the course of the trials imposed upon our people as a result of the March 1977 earthquake. On 4 March and in the aftermath we witnessed a number of examples of individual behavior under critical circumstances. They were the result of the different types of moral-political and psychological spirit of individuals and entire collectives.

The press and the other mass information media extensively stressed the heroism of the Bulgarian People's Army and the local population in conducting rescue operations. Risking their lives, the people made their way through dangerous piles of concrete slabs looking for signs of life. Many among them stayed at the sites for days on end, doing everything possible to save people and property. I will never forget the readiness for self-sacrifice written on the faces of Maj Tsvetan Minkov, chief of the KAT [Automotive Transportation Control] in Svishtov, crane operator Pavlina Eftimova from the Construction Mechanization Administration in Pleven, and her colleagues, Petur Andreev Penchev from the Construction and Installation Combine in Svishtov, and the concentrated and skillful personnel of Svishtov's port, or the hoarse voices of many officers and tireless silent work of the soldiers, as well as other heroes who modestly concealed their faces from the cameras and avoided interviews with journalists.

The critical atmosphere which developed also revealed some unresolved problems related to the moral and psychological preparedness of individuals: some of them left for the countryside and stayed there for quite sometime;

others critically discussed with relatives of the victims means for speeding up rescue operations without doing anything themselves. Some whispered unsubstantiated rumors to the effect that the earthquake would reoccur and that the city was endangered by the possibility that toxic gas from the Chemical Combine may be released, thus adding to the already extreme nervous stress. A natural consequence of all this was the undesirable psychosis and panic created by the allegedly spreading toxic gas experienced by Svishtov on 7 March. This proves yet once again the need for rapid, systematic, and purposeful mass-political work not only among the formations and labor collectives but the entire population. Along with rescue and emergency breakdown repair operations, extensive explanatory work had to be done.

A number of factors are involved in the shaping of the moral-political and psychological resistance of the population, the most important among which is the social system and its main elements--the family, the school, and the activities of party and other sociopolitical and mass organizations, administrative and economic organs, cultural institutes, creative unions, and mass information and propaganda media.

Propaganda activities are one of the factors influencing human moods and behavior. Experience shows that in such cases it makes a difference as to who will be the first to meet the need of the public for information. The speed of information plays a decisive role. Those who are slow must not mold but change already established social attitudes. In such cases being first eliminates the need to engage in counterpropaganda on a given matter. This saves on forces and facilities and makes possible the successful influencing of public opinion, moods, and behavior, and the control and prompt blocking of the spreading of rumors. This also promotes trust in the specific information medium.

Naturally, this is no more than a sketchy consideration of the problem. In terms of civil defense, it means that the proper moral-political and psychological preparedness of the formations and the population demands of the civil defense staffs at all levels to engage in constant well-organized and comprehensive mass-political work which would help the initial shaping, consolidation, and steady maintenance of the necessary preliminary attitude. This is a process which requires the dissemination of a certain minimum of civil defense knowledge along all channels and media--familiarity with mass destruction means and protection from them, knowledge of civil defense signals and of who has the right to issue them and when, actions to be taken with such signals, and advance training.

In critical situations such activities must be considerably more intensive, timely, and specific. In such cases the need for supplying the population with a great variety of information increases drastically. Meeting such requirements would enable propaganda activities to guide public opinion and direct human behavior. This was confirmed by the experience in mass political work in Svishtov. The reason I discuss this city is that I have a direct impression of activities conducted in it at that time.

Under the leadership of the city BCP committee, the city Fatherland Front committee, and the city civil defense staff a number of effective measures were implemented. A report on the damage caused and the development of rescue operations was presented at an expanded party aktiv meeting. It was immediately disseminated among the population, in plants, and in schools.

The Fatherland Front organizations sponsored district meetings at which the circumstances and the forthcoming tasks were explained. The citizens adamantly raised a number of questions such as, "Could you tell the people what the real situation at the Sviloza plant is?" "What would be the threat to the city in the case of eventual breakdowns at the plant?" and "What should the people do should such a danger really arise?" The people insistently wanted to know the meaning of civil defense signals and how they will be given specifically for the city. Who would be in charge of repairs of damaged buildings, who would provide the necessary materials, and so on? A number of suggestions were made: Civil defense should have its own telephone number such as is the case, for example, with fire prevention or First Aid, so that if necessary the people could be rapidly informed of the existing danger, means of action, and others. A round-the-clock watch was organized at the district clubs where the citizens were given competent information on matters of interest.

Senior officials broadcast explanations and instructions on the city radio network. Suitable music for local radio broadcasting was selected with the help of musicians, and so on. However, at this point the following question arose: Did we not abandon public loudspeakers prematurely? In Svishtov, for example, the only loudspeaker in operation was in the city's square. Under the developed circumstances, however, the people were mainly in the streets and had no opportunity to listen to their household speakers. Another question to be resolved is that of making more extensive use of mobile propaganda media, particularly mobile automobile clubs, some of the facilities of the Automotive Transportation Control, conventional megaphones, and others. Actually, the city people's council had such a vehicle but it was used exclusively for transportation purposes.

The daily issue of the newspaper DUNAVSKO DELO dealt extensively with the events (the fact that its propaganda, organizational, and educational influence would have been unquestionably greater had it been circulated before the obituaries is a different matter). Extracurricular classes were held in the schools by the room teachers where recommendations were given on the behavior of students, the need for greater personal and public hygiene, and so on. The comprehensive experience is as yet to be studied, analyzed, and summed up, as the present article is merely the record of an initial and most general impression.

Briefly stated, the propaganda institutions organized and successfully carried out their activities. Somewhat disturbed by the unexpected nature of the shock, and involved in rescue operations, however, they considerably delayed the implementation of some measures. In some areas they allowed counterpropaganda activities and worked to change moods already developed under the influence of unverified rumors. This drastically lowered the effectiveness of the implemented measures.

Another noteworthy problem was that of the preparedness of the propaganda apparatus, the press, and the radio broadcasts for action under critical situations. It is not easy in the least, for example, to write rapidly an appeal to the people, a leaflet, a memorandum, or a radio broadcast in an easily understandable style. Even professional propagandists and journalists require several drafts before achieving an acceptable text. This faces civil defense propaganda activities with serious problems such as the periodical publication of suitable materials, advance training of propagandists and journalists on how to act under such circumstances, the establishment of required documentation at editorial offices and the radio broadcasting center, and many other matters.

As a structural element in molding the moral-political and psychological preparedness of the population for civil defense propaganda offers a broad field for creative manifestations. It should be organized and conducted in such a way as to steadily strengthen in the people the belief and conviction that the civil defense formations, side by side with the Bulgarian People's Army troops, safely protect the peaceful toil of the people.

5003

CSO: 2200

SSM MUST EDUCATE ITS MEMBERS IN PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM

Prague ZIVOT STRANY in Czech No 14, July 77 pp 24, 25

[Article by Miroslav Stepan, member of the secretariat of the Municipal Committee of the CPCZ and chairman of the Municipal Committee of the Union of Socialist Youth in Prague: "The Education of Youth for Internationalism"]

[Text] One of the chief goals and tasks of the Union of Socialist Youth [SSM] is to educate youth in the spirit of proletarian and socialist internationalism. We are devoting great attention in the Prague union organization to this weighty task under the leadership of the Municipal Committee of the party and of other party organs and organizations. The efforts exerted are bringing concrete results in the intensification of the internationalist feeling and thinking of SSM members. For example, their attitudes and approaches toward not only the evaluation of various phenomena and processes in the international youth and student movement and the activity of progressive youth organizations in capitalist countries, but also toward the organizations of non-progressive orientation, [as well as] the ability to see and judge phenomena and events in the world from a class viewpoint and from the standpoints of proletarian and socialist internationalism witness to this.

We are devoting attention to the education of young people for socialist internationalism not only in the political education of the SSM, where we are achieving good results, thanks to the great help and care of the basic party organizations in regard to providing it with cadres and materials (the help of deserving members of the party is priceless). We are endeavoring to have the entire activity of the union organization contribute to the forming of the internationalist feeling of young people. We are expanding the ties of friendship of the union organizations with fraternal youth organizations. In November of last year, for example, in cooperation with the Municipal Committee of the SCSP [Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship League], we carried out a working trip to Moscow of 160 of the most active union members, who were also members of the SCSP. Deserving members of the party who work with youth also went along on the trip. In seminars we exchanged experiences from the internationalist education of the members of the SSM and the VLKSM [Soviet] with Komsomol functionaries. We used the very valuable experiences that we gained in the preparation of topics for the municipal union conference, and we shall proceed from them in our further activity.

The history and the present state of the Leninist Komsomol and the results that it is achieving in all fields of its activity are a rich, inspiring source for the work of our youth organization. From the experiences of the Moscow organization of the Komsomol in the development of various forms of participation of Soviet youth in the building of Moscow as a model communist city, we are proceeding, for example, in the orientation of our pledges in honor of the Second Congress of the SSM and the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, with which we want to contribute to the development of our capital.

We also proceeded from the experiences of the Leninist Komsomol in the preparation of the movement of Prague youth, already well known today: "15 Specific Undertakings of the Youth of Prague for the 15th Party Congress", which aided significantly in the activization of the members of the SSM and of the union organizations. The movement was highly appraised in the report delivered by a member of the presidium of the Central Committee of the CPCZ and leading secretary of the Municipal Committee of the CPCZ, Comrade Antonin Kapek, to the municipal party conference. Discussion of the plans for the friendship activity of the SSM by the party organs is a very good and proven practice.

We have broad working and friendly contacts with the Komsomol organizations of the Central Group of the Soviet Armies. In seminars and various sport and cultural events, the Soviet young people and ours get to know each other and exchange experiences from the work and life of their organizations. In the year of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of our fatherland by the Soviet Army, very stimulating meetings of the functionaries and members of the SSM and the Komsomol took place at all the faculties of the institutions of higher learning of Prague at the initiative of the party organs and with the participation of functionaries of the Komsomol organization of the Central Group of the Soviet Armies. A meeting of the youth of the capital cities of the socialist countries takes place yearly. We can say without exaggeration that these are a school of socialist internationalism for young people and also an opportunity for a many-sided exchange of experiences of youth organizations of the socialist countries, drawn from the Communist education of their members and their participation in the fulfillment of the economic tasks set forth by the congresses of the communist parties. In the year of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of our fatherland by the Soviet Army, the Prague union organization was host to the 5th youth meeting. In the same year we celebrated another jubilee also--five years of activity of the Socialist Union of Youth. Thanks to the attention and care that our communist party devotes to us, we have been able to acquaint our friends from the fraternal socialist countries with the successes and good results that were achieved during this period in the work of the SSM.

In the internationalist education of youth, we make considerable use of the socialist countries, especially of the House of Soviet Science and Culture. The cooperation, which proceeds from annual work plans worked out together, brings results in the preparation of the functionaries' activ, helps to raise

the quality of the political education of the SSM and aids in the enrichment of well-known forms of union work, such as the Little Social Certificate (for high school students) or the Apprentices' Academy. Union organs in institutions of higher learning have specific contacts with unions of foreign students studying in our country; cooperation with students from the socialist countries is especially rich. A good aid to the strengthening of the internationalist feeling of young people from Prague is the annual exchanges of university students who take part in the so-called third semester--summer working activists in individual socialist countries.

Acts of solidarity with the people of nations struggling for national and social liberation are no less important. As an instance, let us at least mention here the meeting of Prague youth with Alberto Corvalan, the son of the general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, the solidarity concerts, the 50,000 postcards of our young people to Comrade Luis Corvalan on his 60th birthday, thousands of signatures of the Prague union members in support of the new Stockholm appeal and so on. Voluntary brigade and work activity, from which Kcs 1 million was turned over to the Solidarity Fund, is also an expression of the internationalist consciousness of young people from Prague.

We are seeing a powerful impulse to the development of internationalist education in the preparations for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students, which will take place next year in Cuba. We are already considering today how best to use--for the further intensification of the internationalist education of our young people--the fact that, for the first time in its history, the festival will be held on the Latin-American continent, in the first socialist country in this area.

At the center of our attention is also the strengthening of Czech-Slovak reciprocity, of the fraternal relations of the boys and girls of Czech and Slovak nationality. Every year meetings of the youth of Prague and Bratislava are held. We hope that the meeting next year--in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Victorious February, which opened the way to a just resolution of the relations of our peoples, and the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the federative arrangement of our state--will be a stimulus to the enrichment of the activity of the SSM in this area.

9105

CSO: 2400

EAST GERMANY

ADN COMMENTARY DEPLORES SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT

East Berlin ADN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE in German 1813 GMT 15 Aug 77 LD

/Article: "ADN Commentary: Ominous Situation in Northeastern Africa"]

[Text] Berlin--Lately tensions in the horn of Africa have been ominously aggravated. An open military conflict has broken out in Ogaden, on Ethiopian Territory. Units of the regular Somali forces are taking part in the hostilities. Heavy weapons are used in the fighting which is inflicting great damage on the population of this region and on the people of Ethiopia and Somalia as a whole.

This new and dangerous source of conflict is only playing into the hands of imperialism and the reactionary circles in the Arab region and in Africa who are seeking to weaken the region's progressive states and forces. The emergence of a progressive Somalia, the overthrow of the rotten monarchist feudal regime in Ethiopia and the building of a new order are a thorn in their side. Once again they want to subordinate this strategically important region to their imperialist and reactionary goals and for this purpose they are fanning nationalistic passions.

Imperialism is hoping that by this conflict it will be able to divert attention at the same time from the liberation struggle of the people in southern Africa against the vestiges of colonialism and racism.

The Western mass media are avidly reporting events in this part of Africa. While all peace-loving people are most deeply concerned at this tragic conflict, these articles, contributions and commentaries bespeak undisguised joy. Some profess to see "a unique chance to reconquer lost African terrain without risking one's own skin."

Recent developments in northeastern Africa are causing deep concern in the GDR, which maintains close and friendly relations of anti-imperialist solidarity with Somalia and Ethiopia; for they are creating an extremely serious situation for revolutionary Ethiopia and, at the same time, imperial Somalia's important gains achieved since the October 1969 revolution.

The GDR people, like all the world's progressive forces, are convinced that a swift solution to the conflict by peaceful means will best serve the interests of the Somali and Ethiopian people and all people of the African continent as well as the cause of world peace. All who are interested in peace and progress welcome, like the GDR, the efforts made to this end within the framework of the organization of African unity.

If both sides emphasize the interests of the struggle against imperialism and reaction, they can overcome their differences and defuse the explosive situation. The basis for a stable peace in the horn of Africa could thus be created.

CSO: 2300

EAST GERMANY

WEST GERMAN COMMENT ON IMPROVED GDR PENAL CONDITIONS

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 1 Aug 77 p 6

[Article by Claus-Einar Langen: "Renunciation of Torture Through Hunger -- Mitigation Announced in GDR Treatment of Prisoners." For related information see the following JPRS issues of this series: 69130, 20 May 77, No 1390, p 52; and 69334, 29 Jun 77, No 1408, pp 87-95]

[Text] Relief for GDR prisoners is in sight by dint of the law on the execution of sentences that went into effect on 5 May this year, superseding the "execution of sentences and rehabilitation law" in its 19 December 1974 version. The GDR has evidently recognized the need to adapt its own regulations on the execution of sentences to the bottom-line principles of the relevant provisions of the United Nations, of which it is a member. It will have to put up with the administrative burdens that come with it in the 20 penitentiaries, the approximately 40 penal commands (penal camps) and the three military penal camps. Unless the law gets abused for reinforcing the practice of denunciations and the thin layer of privileged prisoners, it could initiate a change in dealing with convicted persons in the GDR. Hitherto, the execution of sentences has been marked by vengeance taken against prisoners through exploiting them.

The practical effects of the law can of course only be assessed when enough data become available. Yet it is already certain that it has become more difficult for the chiefs of penal institutions to circumvent the regulations to the detriment of the prisoners. For the regulations to be enforced it will be of advantage not to hide what goes on in the GDR prisons and penal camps to a broad public in both parts of Germany. Reports by men and women, for example, who immediately after their detention can leave for the FRG will bring to light what the actual conditions are.

Confinement Continues

The law makes it seem as if the GDR was now willing to let itself be guided by the humanitarian principle in its execution of sentences. Chapter one article two of the law at least states: "The substance and administration of the execution of prison sentences are governed by the

humane character of the socialist state." In the same chapter, which contains the basic provisions, the GDR appears resolved to assure its prisoners of the "protection of their life, their health and their work capacity." Those are key statements, incompatible with the practice, thus far, of months of solitary confinement in damp, underground cells, some of which rarely see the light of day.

That there is no longer any mention in the execution of sentences law and in its implementing regulation of "strict solitary confinement" but only of confinement or solitary confinement makes it appear that there is an inclination to take a first step toward a humane execution of sentences. The intention evidently is no longer to use torture through hunger as a means to aggravate imprisonment. An indication is found in article 41 of the "first implementing regulation." Accordingly, prisoners, before being confined, are to be instructed about the "conditions" -- and no longer about the "limitations" -- that come with disciplinary penalties. Neither the law nor the implementing regulation settles the manner and administration of the confinement, to be sure. Yet the protection of the life, health and work capacity of the prisoners that is vested in the law would militate against restricting provisions for the duration of the confinement to approximately 200 grams of bread, tea and an extra warm meal every third day. Such drastic curtailment of provisions has been the rule until now.

Confinements up to 21 days continue in force. But when the prisoner gets sick, the confinement must be interrupted. It is a sign of leniency that, according to the new regulations, a confinement will not be continued once 30 days have passed (15 days in the case of a youth who gets sick) since the beginning of the interruption.

It still has to be clarified whether the person under confinement, to "promote general education," may read books and newspapers. In no way is it authorized to prevent his access to literature of his faith. Religious activity is a right explicitly set down in the execution of sentences law; no disciplinary measure may abridge it.

There is a question in connection with the disciplinary measure of confinement that has a consequence about which the designers of the law may not have been completely clear themselves. May prisoners still be punished with confinement if they refuse to work? Not so; the regulations permit an interpretation in favor of the prisoners. The new law insures the "realization of the prisoners' right to work," with the emphasis on the word "right." The provision of the 19 December 1974 version of the "execution of sentences and rehabilitation law," which said that "prisoners able to work were obligated to work," has not been adopted into the law that went into effect on 5 May 1977. Formerly it said the focal point in the education through the execution of sentences lay in "committing" the prisoners to socially useful labor. Now the equivalent basic provision says: "The focal point in the execution of sentences through imprisonment lies in the education through socially useful labor." Account should also be taken of the fact that the second penal code amendment of 7 April this year abolished labor education as the

thus far third type of penalty along with imprisonment and confinement. Chiefs of penal institutions therefore ought to resist the always possible temptation to go on and enforce labor activities coercively. There is no longer any basis in the new execution of sentences law -- and this must be all that matters to convicted persons -- for a work obligation. Political prisoners above all could gain an advantage from this conclusion. If heretofore they refused to work for the regime, they would in principle become subject to intensified confinement up to twice or three times 21 days.

Elimination of an Intensified Execution of Sentences

As the strict or intensified execution of sentences is gone, there are now improvements for the execution of sentences on the whole. Now there are only general or mitigated prison sentences. This mainly changes the situation for convicts and recidivists previously under strict or intensified execution of sentence. Under general sentences, prisoners may write three letters per month, under a mitigated sentence, four. Previously, personal communication was confined to one letter per month under an intensified sentence, to two letters, under a strict one. Visiting has been adjusted to the mitigated sentence conditions and is now one hour for every prisoner. For instance, a prisoner under a strict sentence could receive only one visitor for 30 minutes every third month but now, under general sentence, he may receive two visitors every other month. The mitigated sentence allows for two visitors once each month.

Under a general sentence, a prisoner may receive up to four packages with food and luxury items annually, under a mitigated sentence, up to six. (The great push for norms in the production facilities of the penal institutions even including night shifts ought to induce the GDR, however, to go back to how things were done in the early '50's, when prisoners got a package each month.)

The recompense and amounts for purchasing food and other commodities of personal needs ought to increase in accordance with the new regulations. One should wish for that especially for the imprisoned women. A seamstress working a sewing machine at the Hoheneck penal institution, for example, who in fulfillment of the work norm established handled 560 pillow cases per shift -- this, according to 1975 data -- got between M 8 and M 12 per month for purchase. Curtailing the monthly purchase amount however is one of the possible disciplinary measures. The law now also provides for the duration of labor-time during the imprisonment to count as social insurance period after the release from prison.

The food is to consist of a "communal diet based on dietary and medical insights." Experience will show whether that formulation is merely a new way of covering up how poor in vitamins and protein the food has been.

One must criticize the difficulties which the GDR puts in the way of contacts between Germans from the FRG who are imprisoned in East Germany and Bonn's permanent representation in East Berlin. West Germans and West Berliners,

for instance, who are imprisoned in the Bautzen II penal institution, have to undergo the strain of a trip in the prison van to the State Security investigative prison at Magdalenenstrasse in East Berlin so that they may there receive a visiting associate of the FRG's permanent representation. A GDR Government response to a protest by the FRG's permanent representation has thus far not been forthcoming. In the other cases the competent associates of State Secretary Gaus -- who are in charge of the total of approximately 500 West Germans and West Berliners imprisoned in the GDR -- do have direct access to the penal institutions and public prosecutors' offices. Bautzen II exemplifies the attempt at circumventing the prisoners' rights as guaranteed in the execution of sentences law.

5885

CSO: 2300

EAST GERMANY

FACTORS IN, EFFECTS OF INCREASING BIRTHRATE DISCUSSED

Higher Birthrates, Fewer Abortions

Bonn INFORMATIONEN in German No 15, Jul 77 pp 9-10

[Report by FRG Ministry for Inner-German Relations: "Higher Birthrates and Fewer Abortions in the GDR"]

[Text] The number of births in the GDR has increased steadily since 1974. On the other hand, the number of abortions, legal since 1972, continues to decline. The increase in the birthrate, which was apparently not expected, has led to bottle-necks in the textile industry of the GDR.

Not long ago, Radio DDR I released the following figures about the decrease of abortions:

"Before 1972 there were approximately 55,000 registered abortions per year. The estimated number of unreported abortions would more than double this figure. If this is compared with 119,000 abortions which were performed in hospitals in 1972 after they became legal, the figure would correspond more or less to the previous number of illegal abortions. However, in the meantime there have been indications that the number has been decreasing continuously. In 1973, the number of abortions was still 113,000, in 1974, 99,000, in 1975, 88,000, and in 1976, 83,000. Consequently, the number of abortions has decreased by approximately one-third over 5 years."

It is remarkable that today women around 30 years of age turn most frequently to doctors for termination of pregnancies. According to a statement by Dr Helga Rayner, head of the Department of Health Care for Mother and Child in the GDR Ministry for Health, "many women believe that the ability or likelihood to conceive is no longer so high at this age and they probably discontinue the use of the pill and do not bother with other means of contraception. We interpret this as an appeal to us as doctors to continue our propaganda in this area of health."

Originally, one of the strongest objections against the law about termination of pregnancies was the opinion that it opened the doors to so-called free love. The question of whether the expected "moral decay" of youth had occurred was answered by Dr Rayner at the beginning of June 1977 on television: Most likely, only a small group was voicing strong objections, because all those who are involved with young people, wherever it may be, trusted these young people.... And this trust which we put in young people has been fully justified. On no account is there any reason to speak of a moral decay."

Here is Dr Rayner's account about 5 years of abortions:

"It was to be anticipated that there would be a relatively sharp increase in abortions. However, this increase was evident only during the first year of the decree. During the year of 1973 a slowdown already occurred and this tendency is continuing today. We have a decrease of approximately 30 percent. Therefore, the overwhelming majority of our women are using contraceptives, they are choosing prophylaxis. Simultaneously with this development, there is an increase in our birthrate which should not only be attributed to the larger number of women of child-bearing age but above all to an increase in fertility by two-thirds. This means that the individual woman is deciding to have a second or a third child."

GDR Radio substantiated this tendency with figures: "Since 1974 we have an increase in the birthrate, in 1975 by 2,500, the following year it was even more pronounced: almost 14,000 more births occurred in 1976 than in 1975."

This development intensified during the first 6 months of this year. During the first quarter of 1977 52,556 children were born i.e. 3,695 more than during the same period in 1976. The number of births in March alone increased by 12.5 percent compared to March 1975.

This rise in birthrates led to bottle-necks in the textile industry of the GDR. In particular, companies manufacturing maternity clothes and baby goods could not satisfy the rising demand for these textile goods. Two examples from the textile industry will illustrate this. The Zweckmode Apolda VEB, which manufactures maternity clothes, and the Kiwa (knitwear for children) VEB in Ebersbach, which supplies 75 percent of all the knitwear for babies produced in the GDR, were not prepared for the increase in demand.

GDR Television found out that goods offered as maternity clothes are looked upon by customers as "old unsaleable stock." The director of the Zweckmode VEB replied: "We are--I could almost say--forced to use these fabrics because fabrics are chosen in advance by a commission and consequently the fashion institute prescribes more or less what must be produced by us."

Referring to this statement, GDR Television asked customers in an East Berlin store about the models which had been designed at Apolda for 1977 and 1978. The customers were in agreement that these models were "good and chic." The spokesman for the company said that it was true that these models had been rejected by the appropriate commission for quality control because the colors were too fashionable.

With regard to baby clothes changes in production have already been initiated in order to be better prepared for the expected baby boom during the coming years. The Kiwa VEB announced a change in production in order to be able to offer a selection in baby wear which will be adequate in quantity and size.

Demographer's Estimates

Bonn IWE-TAGESDIENST in German No 144, 1 Aug 77 p 1

[Report from Berlin: "GDR Experts Expect Increasing Birthrate"]

[Text] East Berlin demographers expect a continuous rise in the birthrate in the GDR. During a broadcast of "Radio DDR," Dr Kurt Lungwitz, professor of demography at the East Berlin Institute for Economy, said that the positive development of the birthrate during the last 2 years will continue for the next few years, because several sociological measures which favor the birthrate did not become effective until last year. They could not affect the number of births until this year. In this connection, Professor Lungwitz mentioned paid leave for mothers who are having their second or third child and a lengthening of maternity leave. These and other measures will be responsible for a continuous rise in the birthrate for this year and in the long run probably "normalize" the GDR birthrate.

According to figures from East Berlin, the GDR registered a significant rise in the birthrate during the first half of 1977 compared to the same time period of the previous year. Consequently, it may be assumed that in 1977 more than 200,000 children will again be born; in 1976 there were only 195,000, in 1975 barely 182,000, and in 1974 only approximately 179,000 children.

8991

CSO: 2300

POLAND

JOB STRUCTURE, TRAINING OF APPLICANTS COMPARED

Figures Reported

Warsaw KURIER POLSKI in Polish 13 Jul 77 p 3

[Text] The academic school year has come to an end, and vacations are waiting, the last vacations for the graduates who will soon take on the first professional jobs of their lives. With their freshly signed diplomas they are entering adult, independent life as qualified workers, technicians, engineers, teachers and physicians.

The time of starting a trade often determines what kind of worker a graduate will be in the future. The important first step in a trade can determine the attitude toward future obligations and toward the development of a career for an entire life. Thus, among other things, this year for the first time plants have been obliged, along with service and craft shops, to establish very definite plans of employment with consideration given to the priority of the new school graduates over other applicants for work.

Balance and Disproportions

A summation of the plans prepared by the plants shows that there will be an average of 480,000 assured jobs for the 460,000 young people ending their schooling this year. However, the surplus on the national scale does not mean that no unfavorable disproportions will appear for graduates between the number of jobs and the number of people looking for work in individual regions. These disproportions are the result of imperfect planning, and also of the rapidly changing socioeconomic structure of the country, which has caused, for example, a tremendous increase in the need for qualified cadres for agriculture and services. It is actually these fields which feel the lack of personnel most intensely. Only a change in the profile of education and its adaptation to current needs can solve this problem radically. However, this is a question for at least several years.

On the other hand, for today courses intended, for example, for graduates of general high schools, are providing a possibility of rapid preparation for trades associated with the food and service economy. In the next few months these courses will be organized by voivodship authorities in conjunction with education and on the basis of the concrete needs of plants. The courses are to last 4 to 6 months, depending on the specialty. Obviously this solution is only reasonable in regard to graduates of general schools or with a trade background close to that of agriculture and services. However, it would be difficult to use them in other cases, at least in view of the costs already invested by the state in educating technicians or workers for a definite specialty.

Still, the most difficult problem this year is the reasonable employment of higher school graduates in accord with the needs of the country and their qualifications. Institutions of higher education have graduated 44,000 people this year, 33 percent more than in the previous year. Changes made in the educational system on the higher level have meant that for the first time we simultaneously have graduates of 4-year, 5-year and 4 1/2-year courses of study. The number of graduates with university specialties is twice as high as normally. This has caused difficulties which the system of planned employment, functioning for many years, has not been able to prevent. Funded scholarships, preliminary agreements and work applications do not yet guarantee any effects in the form of guiding the stream of graduates in conformity with local needs, qualifications and personal plans for finishing studies.

Who Will Go To The Gmina?

Despite the activity of the planned employment system, for example, every fourth graduate of an agricultural institution is not employed in accord with his specialty. Young people, even if they have come from the country or from small towns, are not willing to leave the large cities after they have a diploma.

This year, of 400 graduates from the Zielona Gora WSP [Higher Pedagogical School], 50 are going to the country, and only 1 of his own free will! And still teachers are exactly what the gmina schools need today. Graduates of other institutions are also unwilling to take work outside of the large centers, and this gives rise to new investments. Actually in Warsaw 100 out of every 1,000 employees has an advanced education while there are not 30 such people in such voivodships as Walbrzych and Zielona Gora.

Where are we to find the reasons for this? One of them is certainly the fact that job offerings reach the institutions too late, sometimes at the very last moment. For example, the University of Wroclaw had received only 700 job proposals by the end of April. In particular there was a lack of offerings for graduates with teaching specialties. Right to today there are still too few job offerings for physicists, biologists, historians

and climatologists. In schools which do not have their own administrators for matters of employment, such as music institutes, the bulletin board teems with various offerings with agreements being concluded on the basis of "who gives most." At the same time education continues to wait for people who could provide musical education in a proper manner.

In the last few months the matter of employing graduates has been the subject of conferences in main academic circles, with the participation of deputy voivodship leaders, curators, prorectors and representatives of youth organizations and major plants. There they have discussed proposals and conclusions aimed at creating possibilities for all graduates to get a job, whether they are included in planned employment or not. Thanks to this many sociologists, lawyers and psychologists will be able to find work, for example, in social cells and on the staffs of large plants where they are greatly needed and where their knowledge will be useful. Some teachers will get jobs in cells concerned with vocational training in plants.

Unused Opportunities

The choice of a job, which was thoroughly discussed at the last Plenum of the SZSP [Socialist Union of Polish Students] is a tangle of matters which reciprocally affect each other. The first of these is the continuous lack of a real association of study with practice, with a future job. Some institutions are trying to make up for this basic error by organizing so-called alternating studies (one half year at the institution, one half in a plant) or a half year of practice at the very beginning of studies. The SZSP organization in Poznan has shown an interesting initiative by accepting the patronage of selected gminas.

However, other activity is also necessary which would create stimuli in the form of, for example, higher funded scholarships than usual with a preference for voivodships with the greatest personnel needs, loans for graduates, and especially a guarantee of apartments for young married couples. Changes in the scholarship system are to occur as early as October. The matter of apartments is more difficult.

A special question is the creation of proper conditions for students going to work to increase their skills and to exhibit their initiative and drive. The resolution of the Council of Ministers on job plans means that every plant now has an obligation to appoint a protector who will watch over the adjustment of graduates going to work for the first time in their lives. May they all be protectors, not only by title, but with their hearts and convictions. A great many tasks are waiting for them. Previously a great many young workers changed plants even during their first years of employment. Research carried out in 1973 revealed that, for example, 35 percent of young engineers do not use their qualifications during work, that half of the time they are occupied by tasks which do not require any higher education. After all, the knowledge transmitted to the graduates is capital which should and must bear results for the development of the country.

SLOWO POWSZECHNE Comment

Warsaw SLOWO POWSZECHNE in Polish 7 Jul 77 p 1

[Text] The problem of vocational qualifications for workers in the national economy never becomes outdated. In this regard it is obvious that investment in vocational training is very profitable, since the outlays for education are returned within a short time. However, a necessary condition is harmony between the type of vocational preparation and the nature of employment.

We are bringing up this subject for two reasons. First, preliminary examinations are being held for higher schools, and secondly, the General Survey of Qualification of Working Youth was finished recently.

Information from the press shows that, just as in past years, the number of candidates to become students considerably exceeds the number of places offered by institutions. This would not be a matter requiring any critical comment, since we are not able to accept all applicants for full-time study for objective reasons, were it not for the fact of the considerable disproportion of applicants for particular specialties in their studies. This can mean, and most often does mean, that in the choice of a future vocation young people are directed by a specific fashion or conviction of the relative ease of studying a particular discipline, but not by their real vocational predisposition or interests. This leads to later disillusionment, failure in studies and departure from the vocation acquired.

This then does not concern a higher school diploma itself, but the preparation of experts who will work with satisfaction and contentment and whose work will really be effective. However, the situation in this area can scarcely be accepted as satisfactory, as the results of the Survey mentioned above also revealed.

It included approximately 30 percent of the young people up to 30 years old. It showed that upwards of 2 percent of the employees in socialized plants did not have a complete education, and that 24 percent had completed the lowest, obligatory level of education. People employed in production, with a complete elementary vocational education, constituted more than 34 percent, while higher education (vocational schools or general high schools) included 28 percent.

In comparison with the past a definite improvement is noted in regards to the quality of qualifications. But at the same time it is found that 10 percent of young workers are employed without regard to the vocational preparation they have received. Why is this so?

Earlier investigations were able to establish a group of causes determining the occurrence of the above-mentioned irregularities. In addition to the obvious errors in the fulfillment of personnel policy by plants, we can also mention here local disturbances on the job market reflected in an excess of graduates representing definite professions over the opportunities for employment in jobs corresponding with their qualifications. The structure of our vocational education still is not adequate for the needs expressed by the individual sections of the economy, and this reveals a relatively small degree of flexibility which makes it difficult to react rapidly to changing circumstances.

The statement that the majority of young workers are not satisfied with the education they have received and express a desire to improve their qualifications is undoubtedly optimistic. Despite the development of various forms of vocational education, accomplishment of this goal is not easy, once the difficulties accompanying the union of study with vocational work (for example, employment in a shift-work system) have been considered. Let us add that in smaller towns the opportunities for vocational improvement are limited in view of the lack of educational institutions.

Plants must provide young people with far-reaching assistance. At the same time new and more extensive tasks face educational authorities and economic ministries. Finally, this does not only involve the individual interest of a group of many thousands of young workers. The benefits derived from their qualifications serve society as a whole.

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PAPER ATTACKS CONTROVERSIAL PLAY BY CATHOLIC PRIEST

Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 26 Jun 77 p 2

[Text] Manipulating a few students, Bonifacije Barbaric, the priest of Konjice, organized at the end of May the showing of the play "Prayer of the Bacallaureants," which was presented on the premises of the church. The principal character of the play was Barbaric himself, who both acted in and "directed the whole show."

The content of his "Prayer" fervently and bluntly exhorts the faithful to rise in defense of political freedom which, according to Barbaric, are denied not only to them but also to "the people and country."

What kind of freedom and whose freedom is Bonifacije Barbaric praying for?

The Reality of Our Life and Society

Certainly not the freedom of the faithful, because they already have freedom in our society. The principle of religious freedom and social equality of all citizens, regardless of whether they profess religious convictions or not, has been propounded from the adoption of the first Yugoslav constitution in 1946 to the recently adopted law on the legal status of religious communities.

The declaration of religious freedom has always been a fact of life in our society. How this freedom is observed has recently been evaluated by the ecclesiastic dignitaries themselves. Thus, for instance, early in April Dr Joze Pogacnik, the Archbishop of Ljubljana, pointed out in an interview given to Ljubljana DELO "that we are all equal before the law and constitution." To the question whether the causes of misunderstanding could represent the recidivism of clerical activities he replied: "It is hard to say where such difficulties do originate. Probably [it originates] with ideologically too zealous individuals, who have respect neither for the constitution nor for the law and cannot see the clear distinction between the professing of a religion--which is a freedom guaranteed by law--and the so-called clericalism. The authorities, however, should uphold the law."

It would be a good idea if the playwright also were acquainted with the views of Vlado Karlovic, president of the Association of Catholic Priests of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which he recently stated in a conversation with the representatives of the Republic Conference of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speaking on behalf of the three associations of religious servants of Bosnia and Herzegovina--Moslem, Orthodox, and Catholic--he pointed to several examples which show that our society is concerned and determined that the constitutional principles on the freedom of conscience are scrupulously respected. He concluded by saying that members of religious associations feel they are treated as equals of all members of our social and ethnic community and that they have the same rights and duties as all others.

Out of Step With His Own Church and Congregation

Bonifacije Barbaric, however, does not think so. His point of view is obviously diametrically opposed to that of his professional organization. And we shall see why.

The playwright, in his concern for the souls of his flock, seeks freedom for both the country and the people. Thank you kindly, but the country and the people, whom he has in mind, have already won their freedom as early as 1945. However, he wants no part of this freedom but rather some other kind. Instead of championing the freedom of believers he seeks freedom for those who were a threat to all freedom including the freedom of the believers. He makes this very clear in his play.

This "play"--based on falsity, provocations, and tendencies that run contrary to the general convictions and the general as well as the specific interests of the Croatian people and all other brotherly Yugoslav peoples and nationalities--is not the only distinction of Bonifacije Barbaric. He has already been warned on several earlier occasions with regard to his conduct. In 1971 while serving as rector in Ruzici kod Gruda he prepared another political play--a show in which he simply "gave" Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia as a fact of history. At one time he organized compilation of names of slain Ustache and attempted to have them displayed in the church as a memorial to the "fighters for the people."

This is the kind of freedom which Bonifacije Barbaric advocates. He has, accordingly, good reasons to pray. Not for "freedom" of belief, to be sure, but for those whom he has repeatedly injured and for the church he should be serving to forgive him.

Abuse of Religious Facts

The believers, too, have affirmed their patriotism and dedication to liberty, independence, equality, brotherhood and unity in a socialist, self-managing Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia--along with the rest of the working people and citizens--in the war of national liberation, and they are

reaffirming their dedication in the socialist, self-managing development of today. It is unmanly and disgraceful, to say the least, to attempt abusing their religious feelings and their trust in the priesthood to exhort them to fight against the convictions for which many of them have shed their blood--and this is precisely what Bonifacije Barbaric is trying to do in his "play."

This time, too, it is necessary to emphasize that the Socialist Alliance and all the organized socialist forces within it will, as always, fight for full observance of the legal and constitutional provisions on religious freedom as well as for freedom from any kind of pressure brought to bear on citizens regardless of where this may come from.

Accordingly, we are aware that the case and activities of Bonifacije Barbaric are to be identified neither with the church nor with the believers but represent only a clear and extreme example of how obscurantism and hatred can eclipse love--how a nationalist, regardless of whom he may be, ruthlessly attacks the interests of his own people, a conduct which has long been known to our working people and citizens and which involves, of course, the believers of Konjice, who have publicly condemned the conduct of Bonifacije Barbaric.

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END